

*Historical Notes* to accompany letter dated:

10/1/63: 093

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Cyrus Hardaway's combined letters home dated October 1 and 9, 1863 confirm the regimental histories of the 114th NYS Volunteers as written in the late 19th century by Civil War veterans. After returning from the rather embarrassing *Sabine Pass Campaign*, the Army of the Gulf, including the 114th NYS Volunteers, recuperated at Brashear City, Louisiana. The 114th was quite familiar with this location as they had camped at this location several times prior. Joining the 114th in their Union camp was a large reinforcing contingent of Federal soldiers from the successful *Vicksburg Campaign*. By late September of 1863 a new campaign into Texas was underway. Passing through Berwick, up the Teche River, Pattersonville, the battlefield near Bisland, Franklin, and New Iberia, the 114th finally reached a location near Vermillion Bayou on October 8th where a short and indecisive engagement occurred.

On a personal level, readers of these letters have undoubtedly detected that Hardaway has "fell in love with the country down here." There is also the possibility that Hardaway has also fallen in love with some of the "very handsome young Creoles." Creoles are descendants of the early French and/or Spanish strongly influenced by African-American characteristics. Their language, *Creole* is a dialect of French and Spanish and served as the native language of the region. One can only imagine that this Pittsfield farmboy must have been charmed and seduced by the semi-tropical environment with its luxuriant vegetation, soft warm winds, exotic odors, and frequent rains. The presence of "handsome" young women with exotic looks, culture, and language could only have further enhanced his appreciation of Southern life. Perhaps he was just an early version of "snowbirds" who still inhabit Chenango and Otsego counties.

The remainder of the "mustering in" roster of the 114th NYS Volunteers is produced below. At a later date, as Hardaway's letters and the Civil War conclude, we will publish the "mustering out" roster and pertinent personal information of each company member as of May 1865.

NAME RANK AGE ENROLLED AT

NICOLS, Oscar M. Pvt 18 Sherburne d. 3-10-63

PRATT, Charles J. Pvt 18 Sherburne

PETIT, Solomon Pvt 44 Sherburne

POTTER, Christopher W. Pvt 23 Sherburne

PUTNAM, Daniel N. Pvt 31 New Berlin MW 6-17-63

ROBERTS, George W. Pvt 18 New Berlin KIA 6-14-63

ROWLAND, Smith D. Pvt 26 Sherburne

SHIPMAN, Lindsley L. Pvt 21 Sherburne

SHAW, Lorenzo S. Pvt 28 Sherburne

SCISSON, Seth C. Pvt 29 Sherburne MW 6-15-63

SMITH, Charles L. Pvt 25 Sherburne d. 11-15-63

SMITH, Charles N. Pvt 18 Sherburne

SMITH, Elbert F. Pvt 19 Sherburne

SMITH, Albert T. Pvt 23 New Berlin d. 6-14-63

SPURR, John Pvt 25 New Berlin

STEAD, Angell P. Pvt 19 New Berlin d. 8-31-63

TEW, Lewis E. Pvt 19 New Berlin KIA 10-19-64

THAYER, Nelson A. Pvt 22 New Berlin

THROOP, George B. Pvt 29 New Berlin

THOMAS, Charles N. Pvt 21 Sherburne

TEFFT, Charles B. Pvt 22 Smyrna

TEFFT, Nathan Pvt 18 Smyrna

UTLEY, Eugene M. Pvt 23 Sherburne MW 10-27-64

WEBB, Anson E. Pvt 26 Sherburne

WEAVER, Steven Pvt 21 Sherburne MW 9-20-64

WILLIAMS, James S. Pvt 19 Sherburne

WILCOX, Franklin Pvt 25 Sherburne

WATERS, Edgar Pvt 20 New Berlin

WHITE, Austin Pvt 28 New Berlin

WHITE, Charles T. Pvt 19 New Berlin